(b) With a view to augment the promotion of marketing and sales, marketing and promotional programmes are under taken through publicity, participation in fairs, festival sale campaigns etc. Additionally, the Market Development Assistance Scheme helps in the marketing of coir and coir products.

(c) There is no such proposal.

(d) Approximately five lakh persons are engaged in the coir industy.

'Will' Service in Mainpuri, U.P.

† 1203. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased state:

(a) whether Shahjahanpur, a Kargil martyr Anjani's village situated in district Mainpuri of Uttar Pradesh would be linked through Wireless in Local Loop telephone services by March under the rural scheme on the basis of priority;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, telephones would start functioning in this village?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, it is planed to connect Shahjajanpur village of Mainpuri district through underground cable with Ghiror Telephone Exchange. The work is in progress and telephone connections to this village are likely to be provided during the current financial year.

Recovery of loans Disbursed by KVIC

. 1204. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of loans amounting to Rs. 2315.51 crores disbursed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission up to March, 2000, about Rs. 1806.6 crore was pending for recovery as on March, 2000 and interest/penal interst recoverable and updated position of year-wise and loan-wise has been worked by the Commission;

(b) whether unsold stocks of KVIC increased from Rs. 30.96 crore in 1994-95 to Rs. 49.02 crore by the end of March, 2000;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what are the Government's remedical plans?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) Out of the total loans of Rs. 2315.51 crores disbursed by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) upto March 2000, the recoverable fund is Rs. 1098.40 crores. The working fund of Rs. 710.46 crores given to Khadi institutions is not recoverable so long they maintain their level of production.

(b) The closing stock has increased from Rs. 30.96 croes as on 31st March, 1995 to Rs. 44.22 crores as on 31st March, 2000.

(c) The closing stock has increased mainly due to decline in sales of trading units.

(d) Government has asked KVIC to maintain better inventory management. All the trading units have been cautioned by the KVIC to exercise control over purchases and they have been asked to classify their stock item-wise and to segregate the old, damaged, slow moving stock at the time of stock taking and to make efforts for their quick disposal and the Standing Review Committee on Marketing under the Charimainship of Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Marketing) have been constituted by the KVIC to review the performance of all trading units including their stock position.

Mover, the Government of India announced a package for the Khadi and Village Industries sector on 14.05.2001, for the development and promotion of Khadi and Village Industries. The main features of this package consist of a Rebate Policy for five years, option of Rebate and market Development Assistance (MDA), Insurance cover to Khadi artisans, emphasis on improvement of Khadi products, creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building, cluster development etc.

Licences to private companies

1205. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of private companies have been given licences to launch wireline services to differentiate from the present cellular service;